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REF: [] 27249

1. PLEASE FORWARD STATION COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING ITEM.
2. THE FOLLOWING IS [] JOB NO. 4193.
3. BEGIN TEXT: RAOUL WALLENBERG: THE LOST HERO

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPRISING BY THE HUNGARIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAS REVIVED NEW INTEREST IN THE FATE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG, "THE LOST HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST." WHILE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE CRUSHED IN THE STREETS OF BUDAPEST IN OCTOBER 1956 (THE REVOLT BEGAN OCTOBER 23), WALLENBERG DISAPPEARED UNDER BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES 11 YEARS EARLIER WHEN THE SOVIET RED ARMY FIRST OCCUPIED BUDAPEST IN JANUARY 1945. NOW, THOSE FAITHFUL TO WALLENBERG AND HIS HEROIC EFFORTS IN SAVING HUNGARIAN JEWS HAVE COME UP WITH NEW INFORMATION IMPLICATING SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV IN WALLENBERG'S ARREST BY SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES.

IF STILL ALIVE, WALLENBERG IS NOW 69, HE HAS SPENT MORE THAN HALF OF HIS LIFE IN PRISON, GUILTY OF NO CRIME. THE SON OF A WEALTHY SWEDISH FAMILY, WALLENBERG VOLUNTEERED TO GO TO NAZI-OCCUPIED HUNGARY IN 1944 ON A MISSION OF MERCY. FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND THE WORLD JEWISH COUNCIL, HIS JOB WAS TO SAVE AS MANY OF THE 800,000 HUNGARIAN JEWS AS HE COULD. AS A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT IN BUDAPEST, WALLENBERG RENTED OVER THIRTY LOCATIONS AS SAFEHAVENS FOR THOUSANDS OF FLEEING JEWS, PROVIDING MANY WITH SWEDISH PASSPORTS FOR SAFE-CONDUCT. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE SAVED ALMOST 100,000 FROM NAZI EXTERMINATION. HIS WORK WAS INTERRUPTED WHEN SOVIET OCCUPYING FORCES DETAINED HIM. HE WAS LAST SEEN A FREE MAN ON 17 JANUARY 1945, EN ROUTE TO REPORT TO A SOVIET MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OUTSIDE BUDAPEST.

THE SOVIETS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WALLENBERG'S WHEREABOUTS UNTIL 1957 WHEN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO ADMITTED THAT HE HAD DIED IN LUBYANKA PRISON IN JULY 1947. FORMER DETAINEES HAVE

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PROVIDED NUMEROUS REPORTS OF WALLENBERG'S PRESENCE IN MORE THEN 12 SOVIET PRISONS OVER THE 36 YEARS SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE. WALLENBERG COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN FORMED IN EUROPE, ISRAEL AND THE U.S. BUT SOVIET LEADERS HAVE REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH ATTEMPTS TO REOPEN THE CASE.

YAAKOV MENAKER, A LIEUTENANT WITH THE RED ARMY'S 18TH DIVISION WHEN BUDAPEST WAS TAKEN FROM THE GERMANS, LATER RENOUNCED HIS SOVIET CITIZENSHIP TO MIGRATE TO ISRAEL. LAST MONTH HE TOLD THE STOCKHOLM NBWSPAPER, AFTOUBLADET, THAT PRESIDENT BREZHNEV, AS A YOUNG COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICER WITH INFLUENCE, WAS IN COMMAND OF THE 18TH DIVISION DURING THE BUDAPEST OCCUPATION. MENAKER CLAIMED THAT BREZHNEV MAY HAVE PERSONALLY GIVEN THE WALLENBERG ARREST ORDER, BUT IN ANY EVENT HE MUST HAVE HAD FULL ACCESS TO DETAILS OF THE CASE. WHILE THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY THIS STORY DIRECTLY WITH MENAKER IN TEL AVIV, SWEDEN'S FREE WALLENBERG COMMITTEE HAS ASKED THAT SWEDISH DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION RAISE THE BREZHNEV CONNECTION IN MOSCOW DURING THE COMING TALKS ON THE SOVIET-PROPOSED SCANDINAVIAN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. IF MENAKER'S ALLEGATION IS FOUND TO BE TRUE, SWEDEN COULD USE A THREATENED DISRUPTION OF FREE ZONE DISCUSSIONS TO BARGAIN FOR INFORMATION ON WALLENBERG'S FATE.

THE WALLENBERG MYSTERY HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOUDED BY UNCERTAINTY OVER THE REASONS BEHIND HIS ARREST. PERHAPS HIS PURSUERS THOUGHT HIM TO BE AN AMERICAN SPY BECAUSE OF THE FUNDS AT HIS DISPOSAL OR HIS AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BACKGROUND. OTHERS BELIEVE THE APPARENT EASE OF HIS MOVEMENTS ABOUT BUDAPEST TIED HIM SOMEHOW TO THE NAZIS. WHATEVER THE MOTIVES FOR HIS ARREST OR THE CHANCES OF BEING FREED IF ALIVE, THOSE WHO KNEW HIM REFUSE TO CEASE THEIR SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH. ANNETTE LANTOS, DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. FREE WALLENBERG COMMITTEE SUMMED UP WALLENBERG'S UNFORGETTABLE CONTRIBUTION--RAOUL WALLENBERG NOT ONLY SAVED 100,000 LIVES, HE SAVED OUR FAITH IN HUMANITY."

4. FILE: 200-124-179/3. CA POLICY: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR AND EE, 14 APR 79, DIR 419604. RVW 22 SEP 01
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